

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously presented) A tear bar for assisting the separation of a piece of media from a strip of media, the strip of media having a surface, a first and second side, and a center portion, the tear bar comprising:

- (A) a first side portion, the first side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media adjacent to the first side of the strip of media and apply resistance on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media; and
- (B) a second side portion, the second side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media adjacent to the second side of the strip of media and apply resistance on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media;

wherein the tear bar is formed from an integrally formed member having a substantially semi-circular lateral cross-section, the integrally formed member further having a center portion between the first side portion and the second side portion, the center portion having a diameter less than the first side portion and the second side portion, and wherein at least one of the first or second side portions comprises a roughened surface.

2. (Previously presented) The tear bar of claim 1 wherein the first side portion comprises a tapered surface, wherein the height of the first side portion decreases as the first side portion is traversed from the first side of the strip of media towards the center of the strip of media.

3. (Previously presented) The tear bar of claim 1 wherein the second side portion comprises a tapered surface, wherein the height of the second side portion decreases as the second side portion is traversed from the second side of the strip of media towards the center of the strip of media.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The tear bar of claim 1 further comprising a center portion between the first and second side portions, the center portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of vouchers in the center portion of the strip of vouchers and apply resistance on the strip of vouchers when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of vouchers.

6. (Original) The tear bar of claim 5 wherein the center portion comprises a roughened surface.

7. (Original) The tear bar of claim 5 wherein the center portion comprises a rounded surface.

8-18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented) The tear bar of claim 1, wherein the tear bar remains in a fixed position during feeding and separation of the strip of media.

20. (Previously presented) A tear bar for assisting the separation of a piece of media from a strip of media, the strip of media having a surface, a first and second side, and a center portion, the tear bar comprising:

- (A) a first side portion, the first side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media adjacent to the first side of the strip of media and apply resistance on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media;
- (B) a second side portion, the second side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media adjacent to the second side of the strip of media and apply resistance on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media; and
- (C) a center portion between the first side portion and the second portion, the center portion having a diameter less than the first side portion and the second side portion,

wherein the tear bar remains in a fixed position during feeding and separation of the strip of media, wherein at least one of the first or second side portions comprises a roughened surface.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously presented) The tear bar of claim 20, further comprising a center portion between the first and second side portions, the center portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media.

23. (Previously presented) The tear bar of claim 22, wherein the center portion comprises a roughened surface.

24. (Previously presented) The tear bar of claim 22, wherein the center portion comprises a rounded surface.

25. (Currently Amended) A tear bar for assisting the separation of a piece of media from a strip of media, the strip of media having a surface, a first and second side, and a center portion, the tear bar comprising:

(A) a first side portion, the first side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media adjacent to the first side of the strip of media and apply resistance on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media;

(B) a second portion, the second side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media adjacent to the second side of the strip of media and apply resistance on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media; and

(C) a center portion between the first and second side portions, the center portion having a diameter less than the diameter of the first side portion and the diameter of the second side portion the center portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media

wherein the center portion comprises either a roughened surface or a rounded surface.

26. (Previously presented) The tear bar of claim 25, wherein at least one of the first or second side portions comprises a roughened surface.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously presented) The tear bar of claim 25, wherein the tear bar remains in a fixed position during feeding and separation of the strip of media.